T

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LIBRARY

HAVERHILL URBAN DISTRICT

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1970

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Haverhill in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

Tel. No. Haverhill 2271
and
Bury St. Edmunds 2281

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

12th August, 1971.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1970. The estimated population of the district as determined by the Registrar General was 11,390 as compared with a similar estimate for 1969 of 11,210. The estimated increase whilst not significant, will, I have no doubt, become more apparent when the results of the recent census becomes available. The corrected birth rate of 18.8 is in excess of the country as a whole and reflects in some measure the age and sex composition of the community. The corrected death rate, taking into account the age and sex constitution of a community shows that it approximates to that of England and Wales of 11.7. The infant mortality rate which is often regarded statistically as an index of the conditions of an area, was only 10 as compared with 18 for England and Wales.

The Public Health Inspector and his assistant continue to supervise the sanitation of the town in a most efficient way and are capable of dealing with any emergency which may arise in their department. Much attention has been given to the detailed supervision of contacts by the Health Inspectors in controlling the sporadic outbreaks of food poisoning which have occurred in the town during the last year or two.

Apart from the biennial outbreak of measles, there are few cases of notifiable disease which have occurred in the town.

May I thank members of the District Council staff for the help they have given the Health Department and their continued interest in all matters affecting the social development in Haverhill.

The intense interest taken by individual members of the Council in various spheres of health in and around the town is much appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D.A. McCRACKEN

Acting Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.70)	£447,851
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,900
Rates ..... (County Rate 10/6d. U.D.C. Rate 5/9d.)	16/3d.
Number of inhabited houses	3,961
Estimated population	11,390
Population - Census 1961	5,446

The industrial activities of the district are varied and include agriculture, the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats, textile fabrics, brushes, ropes, twines, sacks, telecommunications equipment, office furniture, steel furniture, wooden furniture, sports equipment, sheet metal products, essences, oil well equipment, jewellery, watches, ladders, non-ferrous castings, scientific glass-ware, wooden cabinets, wooden household products, fine chemicals, paint, refrigeration appliances, weighing machines, food machinery, tools and electrical and mechanical components, ventilation equipment, display models, motor vehicle lamp holders and batteries. There are firms engaged in engineering, specialist packing, laundering, printing, the processing of animal feeding stuffs, potato processing, paper converting and food warehousing.

There is a Town Development scheme which is being carried out with the co-operation of the Greater London Council.

SECTION B

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR (as supplied by the General Register Office)

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	155	114	269
Illegitimate	12	5	17
Total	167	119	286

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	25.1
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor .75)	18.8
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6

STILLBIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	3
" " " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales) ..	13

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	156	114	270
Illegitimate	12	5	17
Total	168	119	287

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
	45	40	85

Death rate per 1,000 population	7.5
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 1.55)	11.6
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	2	3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	10
" " " " " " " " (England & Wales)	18

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	7

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	7

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ..	10

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Birth Rates	20.1	21.4	21.0	18.6	20.4	18.8
Death Rates	10.9	11.0	11.3	13.8	11.1	11.6

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

	Male	Female
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	1	2
Diabetes Mellitus	2	-
Hypertensive disease	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	11	5
Other forms of heart disease	1	4
Cerebrovascular disease	4	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	2
Congenital anomalies	1	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	2
	45	40
1969	45	40

SECTION C

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Appointment Vacant

Dr. D.A. McCracken, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
County Medical Officer of Health, West Suffolk County Council, attends to the duties of Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the Council.

ENGINEER and SURVEYOR

F.G. Johnson, C.Eng., M.I. Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.I.H.E.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. Banks, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. R. Purr, M.A.P.H.I.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the area

Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

Nursing in the Home

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties

Infant Welfare

A Welfare Clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1970 is shown in the following table :-

	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	5	6	13	1	7	21	1	-	1	-	6
Measles	2	191	3	246	5	34	549	5	121	3	46
Whooping Cough	2	27	4	8	29	1	21	30	5	5	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Salmonella Typhimurium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	9	224	20	255	41	56	571	36	127	9	64

SECTION E

TUBERCULOSIS

Three new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis

Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	TOTAL
1. Cases at commencement of 1970	6	7	-	1	14
2. First notified during 1970	1	1	-	-	2
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by transfers	1	-	-	-	1
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31.12.70	8	8	-	1	17

SECTION F

WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied to your area by the West Suffolk Water Board.

Purity of the Water

Samples taken throughout the district for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

Samples for chemical analysis were taken by the Board. The Analyst reported that the water was suitable for drinking and general purposes.

The fluoride content of the water is negligible.

Rainfall

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge during the years 1965 to 1966 at the Waterworks and at the Sewage Works since 1967, as compared with 1970.

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
January	2.55	2.39	2.06	1.21	1.02	1.96
February	2.25	1.95	1.02	1.59	2.25	0.81
March	1.84	2.23	1.22	0.80	0.51	1.63
April	2.83	1.39	1.81	2.48	2.15	2.03
May	0.64	2.44	1.19	2.83	1.34	1.05
June	0.65	1.45	2.37	1.54	2.95	1.91
July	1.76	3.17	3.24	1.18	2.71	3.00
August	2.41	2.25	3.33	1.99	2.01	2.67
September	1.78	0.60	4.66	2.28	0.65	3.83
October	0.80	0.24	2.04	3.95	2.52	0.70
November	6.19	2.87	1.09	2.27	1.63	2.46
December	1.85	2.60	1.43	2.33	3.08	3.72
	25.55	23.58	25.46	24.45	22.82	25.77

OPEN-AIR SWIMMING POOL

The Open-Air Swimming Pool is situated at Swan Lane near to the centre of the town. The main pool is 75' x 30' with a maximum depth of 7' constructed in 1930, with a Junior Pool 40' x 20' with a depth varying from 1' 6" to 3' 0". A filtration and chlorination plant was installed in 1938 and increased in capacity in 1964. A heating system for both pools was installed in last year's session.

The charges are £1. 5s. 0d. for Adult Season Ticket holders and 17/6d. for Junior Season Ticket holders. The charge for a single session is 2/- for adults and 1/- for children.

There were 25 Adult Season, 280 Junior Season tickets sold. In addition 2,821 adults and 16,074 juniors paid for admission.

The pool was reserved for the exclusive use of schools during the summer term in the mornings and four afternoons and one evening each week is reserved for the Swimming Club.

Daily field tests are carried out on the bath water and regular bacteriological tests are carried out which show that a regular high standard was achieved.

SEWERAGE

The new Trunk Sewer from the Sewage Works along the Relief Road, the Pightle, Withersfield Road to the junction at Melbourne Bridge, the contract figure for which was £90,584. 13s. 3d. was completed.

Commencement was made on Stage I of the Elmhurst Relief Surface Water Sewer to connect part of the Duddery and Colne Valley Road areas to the river to the south east of the Elmhurst Estate.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work has progressed on the extension of the Sewage Works at Coupals Road in accordance with the details given in my Report for 1969. The Contract got behind time for a variety of reasons which caused difficulty with the Council's ability to deal effectively with the input to the Works.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the Sewers 4,063

Number of dwelling houses not connected to the Sewers 40
(Not within a reasonable distance of a public sewer)

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of domestic and trade refuse is undertaken by the department. 3,909 domestic premises and approximately 261 trade, commercial and other premises are now collected weekly.

The bonus system of refuse collection which was organised in 1963 is continuing and is working satisfactorily.

Collection is carried out by a 40 cub. yd. Dennis Paxit III and a Karrier Musketeer 16/50 capacity compression type vehicles and a Fore and Aft tipper. Disposal is by tipping.

The free collection of bulk items of household refuse is continuing, a service which is very necessary in an expanding town.

The Vickers Seerdrum 50 ton capacity Refuse Pulveriser plant has been installed and is dealing with all of the bulk and some trade refuse.

The use of the powers given by the Civic Amenities Act have continued to be of considerable help in enabling control to be kept of the abandoned vehicles so that the town is relatively free from this nuisance.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of visits and inspections	3,704

The above inspections are divided into :-

Dwelling Houses (Housing Act)	2
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	115
Infectious disease enquiries	146
Complaints investigated	274
Bakehouses	5
Butchers' Shops & Manufacturing Premises	72
Cafes, Restaurants & Canteens	142
Dairies	15
Wet & Fried Fish Shops	8
Other Food Shops or Premises	241
Food Stalls & Vehicles	446
Public Houses	20
Poultry Processing Premises	80
Drainage	101
Rodent Infestation	344
Insect Infestation	115
Disinfestation	15
Clean Air Act 1956	95
Factories	525
Outworkers Premises	24
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	420
Noise Abatement Act	22
Water Sampling	42
Water Supplies	14
Swimming Baths	22
Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956 ..	8
Explosives Act 1875 & 1923	35
Petroleum Installations	155
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	24
Miscellaneous Visits	164
Pet Animals Act 1951	13

Number of Informal Notices	17

COUNCIL HOUSING

During the year 10 4-bedroom houses, 70 3-bedroom houses and 8 1-bedroom bungalows were completed.

At the end of the year the Council owned :-

193	4-bedroom houses
2,053	3-bedroom houses
253	2-bedroom houses
52	2-bedroom bungalows
42	1-bedroom bungalows
46	bedsitter bungalows
4	3-bedroom flats
36	2-bedroom flats
16	1-bedroom flats
16	bedsitter flats
21	other houses purchases by the Council
2,732	

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is one small poultry slaughterhouse within the district which was visited 80 times during the year. A total of 2,865 birds consisting of 2,308 hens and 557 chickens were slaughtered during the year. 0.52 per cent of the birds weighing a total of 68 lbs. were rejected as unfit for human consumption.

Slaughtering normally takes place once or twice a week at these premises and an inspector pays a visit on each occasion. The premises are clean and well conducted and the low rate of rejection of unfit birds is due to the fact that the proprietor rejects emaciated and poor birds at the farms rather than bring them to the slaughterhouse.

FOOD PREMISES

Butchers' Shops	10
Butchers' Manufacturing Premises	9
Bakehouses	1
Grocers' and General Stores	12
Cafes, school kitchens & factory canteens	14
Wet and fried fish shops	4
Greengrocery	9
Sweets, confectionery	18
Dairies, pasteurising plants & milk depots	2
Hotels with catering facilities	2
Public Houses and licensed clubs	14
Off Licence shops	2

For the most part there was the utmost co-operation from members of the food trades in securing compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and 1962.

SECTION G

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - Inspections for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	90	458	5	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	13	66	-	-
Total	104	525	5	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable	5	5			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	4		
Total	11	11	4		

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134

Section 133			Section 134			
Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (C)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel making etc.	18	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18	-	-	-	-	-